



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.7670 | FAX (517) 373.5958

www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/sanborn/

For Immediate Release
June 3, 2004

Contact: Scott Ray
(517) 373-7670

Legislation protecting residents against video voyeurism headed to governor

LANSING – Individuals who invade the privacy of Michigan residents through the use of new electronic technology, including cell phones and digital cameras, would face new penalties under a bill headed to the governor, said Sen. Alan Sanborn, R-Richmond Township.

“Michigan laws have not kept up with the pace of new electronic technology,” said Sanborn, the bill’s sponsor. “Protecting residents from being robbed of their personal privacy in places like locker rooms, dressing rooms and restrooms is of utmost importance. My legislation will help ensure that perpetrators of such crimes pay the price for preying on the innocent.”

The Senate Judiciary Committee recently heard compelling and emotional testimony in support of the bill. One victim shared her story of being emotionally and psychologically devastated when she discovered that she was being covertly taped while using the bathroom and dressing area of a family friend’s home.

A representative of the Michigan Association of Prosecuting Attorneys also testified to the need for more current statutes and penalties to deter criminals from what is seen as a growing problem in the state.

Senate Bill 918 would create specific prohibitions and criminal penalties for acts of electronic voyeurism. Those acts include capturing or transmitting a visual image of a person undressed or wearing only undergarments. Examples of places where one might normally have a reasonable expectation of privacy include private or public restrooms, showers, tanning beds and locker rooms.

Sanborn’s legislation also prohibits and creates stronger penalties for distributing such images, and provides stronger penalties for repeat offenders.

###